

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 15, 18, 21-22, 24 and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,219,553 to Panasik in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,208,865 to Veerasamy. Claims 2 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Panasik in view of Veerasamy and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,617,102 to Prater. Claims 28, 30 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Panasik in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,724,647 to Sato. Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Panasik in view of Sato and further in view of Prater. Claims 31 and 38-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Panasik in view of Sato and further in view of GB 2,149,554 to William. Claims 10, 23, 25, 33-35 and 41-44 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants and applicants' counsel note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter concerning claims 10, 23, 25, 33-35 and 41-44.

In accordance with the present response, allowable claims 10, 23, 25, 33, 41 and 44 have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of

corresponding base claims 1, 8, 15, 19 and 28. Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 11, 15-19, 21, 22, 24, 26-32 and 36-40 have been canceled. A new abstract which more clearly reflects the invention to which the amended claims are directed has been substituted for the previously submitted abstract.

By the foregoing amendments, applicants respectfully submit that the application has been placed in condition for allowance with claims 10, 23, 25, 33-35 and 41-44.

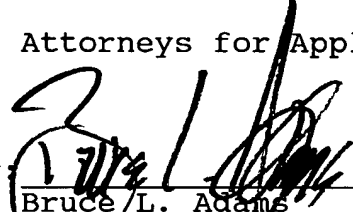
The amendments to the abstract and claims made herein do not raise new issues requiring further search and/or consideration. Instead, allowable claims 10, 23, 25, 33, 41 and 44 have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of corresponding base claims 1, 8, 15, 19 and 28, and claims 1-3, 6, 8, 11, 15-19, 21, 22, 24, 26-32 and 36-40 have been canceled, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance with independent claims 10, 23, 25, 33, 41, 44 and corresponding dependent claims 34-35 and 42-43.

In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion,
the application is believed to be in allowable form.
Accordingly, entry of this amendment and favorable
reconsideration and allowance of the claims are most
respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

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Signature

June 24, 2004

Date